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ABSTRACT

This volume analyzes, in nine essays by academics and specialists in history, government, philosophy, law, and public policy, current cultural and intellectual disputes concerning relativism, multiculturalism, and radical feminism at colleges and universities. Following an introduction by the editor, Howard Dickman, "Leviathan U." (Daniel Bonevac) explores the apparent tension between two recent trends at American universities: multiculturalism, which seeks pluralism and diversity, and political correctness which seeks to limit the expression of views. "Tradition and Change: The University Under Stress" (Stanley Rothman) relates changes in higher education to changes in the role of intellectuals and to changes in the character of Western culture. In "The Sources of Political Correctness on American Campuses" Seymour Martin Lipset points out that political correctness is not a new phenomenon and that recent events express a moralism involving a belief in the perfectibility of humanity, the obligation to avoid sin, and the righteousness of moral crusades. "The Limits of Diversity: The New Counter-Enlightenment and Isaiah Berlin's Liberal Pluralism" (Eric Mack) contends that the modern doctrine of diversity involves rejection of the belief in objective facts and values and of universally binding epistemological and moral norms. "Racial Preferences in Admission to Institutions of Higher Education" (Lino A. Graglia) looks at the practice of affirmative action. "Bad Faith: The Politicization of the University 'In Loco Parentis'" (Allan Charles Kors) critiques speech codes and argues that colleges and universities have expanded their parental role in order to impose their political agenda on undergraduates. "Liberal Intolerance" (Joseph Hamburger) explores the theory behind efforts to set boundaries on acceptable speech on campus and to shape university curricula. "The University as Agent of Social Transformation: The Postmodern Argument Considered" (Jerry L. Martin) argues that a significant body of opinion in the academic world holds that the mission of higher education should be, not the pursuit of "objective" truth, but the fundamental transformation of society. "'The Enemy Is Us': Objectivity and Its Philosophical Detractors" (Fred Sommers)

explores the attack on objective truth, and offers a philosophical solution. (Most essays contain extensive references.) (JB)

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